

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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HORNE RELEASES DATA SHOWING HIGHER NUMBER OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKING ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS

PHOENIX (Thursday, February 9, 2006) – State schools chief Tom Horne today released data from the College Board showing a significant gain in the number of Arizona students taking Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.

“Advanced placement curricula are a vital measurement of academic rigor,” Horne noted. “Studies show that the best predictor of a student’s success in college is not the student’s grades in courses or standardized tests, but the rigor of the student’s curriculum. One of my initiatives is to greatly increase the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses. This is one of the most important things we can do to increase student learning in Arizona.”

According to the College Board, in 2004, 9,893 Arizona public school students participated in AP exams. In 2005, that number increased to 11,790, an increase of 19.2%.

Many students take exams in more than one subject area. The total number of exams taken in 2004 was 16,483. In 2005, that number jumped to 19,672, representing an increase of 14.3%.

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